

### Book Reviews

different teaching methods favoured in the same medical school by successive staffs. The mark left by the teacher upon the student body has been studied with particular care by the authors, as also the changing balance between research and teaching programmes. For those unfamiliar with certain links between European and American pharmacology in the last century and the role played in recent years by the pharmacological industry, it would probably have been desirable to offer an introductory chapter analyzing those events and their bearing, if any, on pharmacology at the University of Virginia.

F. GUERRA

*The Development of Medicine as a Profession*, by VERN L. BULLOUGH, Basel, S. Karger, 1966, pp. viii, 125, S.Fr./DM. 29.

This is an interesting little book, beautifully produced and printed, and written by a man who has published several articles in American journals about aspects of medicine in the medieval period. In fact, apart from the catchpenny title, which is not justified by the contents, the book is really a résumé of the material he has published previously. Briefly it is an outline of medical history covering primitive cultures, Greek and Roman medicine, but weighted heavily on the medieval side. Surprisingly it does not touch the Arabic tradition, except *en passant* when Constantinus Africanus had to be mentioned, nor has it any reference to the Roman *collegia*. Some of his remarks show too great a reliance on secondary sources, for consultation of the original texts would have shown him, for instance, that Monderville used thirteen, not fourteen diagrams, in his book on surgery; that Bernard Gordon is not merely 'believed' to have written towards the end of the thirteenth century, but dated all his separate works exactly with day, month and year; and that 'dry healing' did not predominate, but was eliminated by the reactionary teaching of Guy de Chauliac. These are just a few of the many points that more careful investigation could have rectified. On the whole, however, the book serves a useful purpose and should be welcomed by those who wish to have a simple and straightforward introduction to medical development during the Middle Ages.

C. H. TALBOT

*Descriptive Catalogue of the Pathological Series in the Hunterian Museum of The Royal College of Surgeons of England*, Part I, Edinburgh and London, E. & S. Livingstone, 1966, pp. xii, 288, illus., 84s.

John Hunter's memorable collection has suffered many vicissitudes—not least, the insensate bombing of the museums in Lincoln's Inn Fields in May 1941.

In this magnificently produced catalogue there is expert documentation of a rich selection of surviving specimens; they illustrate Hunter's opinions on the nature of diseases, experiments, and observations on cases in surgery. Hunter was no ordinary man and this is no ordinary catalogue. He always had something to teach and in these pages there is an astonishing amount to be learned. Many of the 429 illustrative specimens have descriptions in Hunter's own words, which enhances their value. The knowledge possessed by Miss Jessie Dobson of the writings attributed to the maker of this unique collection, has been brought to bear on the interpretation of original sources.

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The detailed arrangement of this massive material into thirty-six chapters is an editorial feat—the testimony to an enormous amount of thought on the part of those dedicated collaborators to whom Sir Victor Negus pays tribute in the *Foreword*. Particularly apt among the illustrations are reproductions of some of William Clift's original drawings, which are now in the Library of the University of Melbourne. The short biographical notes are useful for ready reference, and a perusal of the 'Anatomical Index' once more brings home the enormity of the scope of John Hunter's vision.

It is obvious that all the promoters took a personal pride in their arduous task. Moreover, the Board of Trustees of the Hunterian Collection must be congratulated on having been instrumental in effecting the display of the pathological specimens as a separate unit in their new Wellcome Museum. The expenses for publishing the new catalogue have been borne by the MacRae-Webb-Johnson fund. For that service many will be very grateful for a very long time.

This catalogue is a truly remarkable achievement. Unlike so many other catalogues, it makes for exciting reading; the descriptions compel the reader to think. Thereby, it is bound to stimulate research and to promote further study. In these days of 'recent' advances, reference to this book gives many a salutary reminder of great things that have happened long ago. Altogether, this is a superb work—the most instructive catalogue the reviewer has ever read.

N. M. MATHESON

*U.S. Army in World War II: The Medical Department; Medical Service in the Mediterranean and Minor Theaters*, by CHARLES M. WILTSE, Washington, D.C., Department of the Army, 1966, pp. xxvi, 664, illus., \$5.00.

This well-produced and well-illustrated volume gives a good account of the medical services provided for the American Forces during their three years' stern fighting in the Mediterranean area. A preliminary chapter describes the medical provision arranged for the many defence bases in the Atlantic approaches. These were widely scattered from Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland in the north to Bermuda, Panama, the Caribbean and even the Eastern Coast of Brazil in the south.

The fighting in the Mediterranean included five amphibious operations—the first (Torch) in Northern Africa in November 1942 and the fifth (Dragoon) in Southern France in August 1944. Between these came the conquest of Sicily and the more prolonged combat in Italy with landings at Salerno and Anzio and desperate and sanguinary fighting across the Appenines. The military operations are in every case described sufficiently to enable the reader to understand the many and great difficulties encountered by the medical services.

The initial attack in North Africa revealed certain weaknesses in the medical services, but they were quickly remedied and constant improvement took place in the prevention of disease, the transport of the wounded and the surgical treatment both at the front and in the hospitals farther to the rear. Near the front line first aid treatment was promptly given wherever possible but it often took a considerable time before hospital treatment could be given, for difficulties in transport were often formidable. Long distances by ambulance over desert tracks in Africa, and prolonged litter-bearing by human agents along appalling mountainous paths or along roads deep in mud, often exhausted both bearers and patient before the hospital was